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Title: Need to address the problems being faced by NRIs with regard to passport, visa and Consulate General Office.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): It is a well-known fact that a large number of Indians across various States of the country go abroad every year to earn their livelihood. Most of them use the services of agents to enter various countries legally or illegally. The passports of such persons are generally collected by the travel agents and the same are never returned to them when they cross the international border illegally. After reaching their destinations, with the help of local legal assistance, most of them do get political asylum. Now, a large number of such persons have spent 20 or 30 years abroad and now they want to come back to India to meet their family members. These people have earned their livelihood by hard work and they now want to invest their surplus savings in India. The India law does not permit them to come to their mother nation as a result of which they cannot come and see their family members and also they are unable to contribute or avail of the investment opportunities back home. There is no criminal case pending against them. It is requested that suitable amendment should be made in the existing law so that these people also get necessary travel documents to come back to their nation.

There is a need to open more number of Consulate General Offices of India at various places so that people do not have to travel long distances to get counsel assistance. It has been observed that Consulates in USA, Canada, Australia and Europe are at long distances, which are inconvenient to access.

A number of NRIs have been denied Visa on the ground that their names figure in the blacklist maintained by the intelligence agencies. There are no criminal cases pending against them, but still they are not able to get necessary travel documents. It is requested that the Government of India should scrap that list.